

Members from Charles Schumer to Charles Stenholm did. And I think it will help to—more importantly, I think that in the public mind out there in the country, people will see that it's a double guarantee that the money will go where we say it will go. So I still think it's a very good thing to do.

I didn't expect it to move any of the votes of people who say that they won't vote for a tax increase no matter what. But I must say, the most encouraging thing on that is the interview that David Stockman, who was President Reagan's Budget Director, did in a magazine called the New Politics Quarterly this month where he basically owns up to the fact that the biggest problem with the deficit is that they cut 6 percent of the national income out of the tax base in 1981 in a bidding war. That was twice the size of the tax cut that President Reagan originally intended to offer to stimulate the economy. And he says the impact of that has never been overcome. So all we're going to try to do is redress that with some tough spending cuts. And I think the public mood will be far more supportive.

Q. Will you go along with a 35 percent corporate tax rate?

The President. If that's what comes out of the Congress. I don't know if the Senate will vote for that. We'll have to see. But the changes made by the House Ways and Means Committee don't reduce the overall contribution from the business sector. They just shift the way it comes. And I think that's okay.

Bosnia

Q. Mr. President, do you hold out any hope that the referendum in Bosnia this weekend might result in some sort of face-saving way to get out of this mess?

The President. The issue is not face saving. The issue is life saving. Face saving has got nothing to do with it. The issue is whether the Bosnian Serbs are ready to have a serious peace process that will save lives, recognize that all those people have some right and some way to live in the piece of land we now know as Bosnia-Herzegovina, and confine the conflict so that it doesn't spill over and cause much more, much more serious political consequences for everybody.

And that's what I hope. You know, I wouldn't say I ever have given up hope, but I'm skeptical about it. But it might produce something.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:24 a.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks to the University of Texas Champion Wheelchair Basketball Team and an Exchange With Reporters

May 13, 1993

The President. Ladies and gentlemen, I am honored to be the first President to welcome the national intercollegiate wheelchair champions to the White House. I have to tell you that I am very impressed by this group of fine young men. They've done some amazing things. For the 3d year in a row, the Moving Mavs from the University of Texas of Arlington have brought home a national championship. I hear that they're the pride of UT-Arlington, that their home games are drawing record crowds, and that every time another banner is brought home in Texas Hall the excitement and the enthusiasm of the fans keeps building.

I want to recognize a few of the people who've been instrumental in this team's remarkable success: the driving force behind the Moving Mavs, of course, the coach, Jim Hayes; Ryan Amacher, president of the University of Texas of Arlington; and one of their biggest supporters, my friend Congressman Martin Frost, who just coincidentally happens to represent them. *[Laughter]*

I'm impressed with their winning record and their hard work and determination. I understand that this team really reflects the pioneer spirit of Texas and does not flinch in the face of obstacles. All of them are pioneers not only in wheelchair athletics but in the ongoing struggle in our Nation to obtain equal opportunities on and off the court for all Americans with disabilities, not inabilities.

They display the attributes of strength and determination. They've practiced. They've

worked hard. They've produced a championship team in ways that few people ever know. I commend all of you for your unrelenting pursuit of excellence and for your demonstration about what is true in every sport: that as an individual you may star, but as a team you can be champions.

I believe that when people are empowered and when they work together, when they're given the opportunity to make something of themselves by a real community effort, that's when we all achieve the fullest meaning in our lives. If we're going to be a strong America, we're going to have to do more of what you've done with this team, coach.

I'm proud of all of you. I welcome you to the White House. I know the people back home are proud of you, too.

Thank you very much.

[At this point, Dr. Amacher, Mr. Hayes, and team member Phung Tran presented gifts to the President, and Congressman Frost expressed his gratitude to the President.]

The President. Thank you. Thank you very much, all of you, and good luck to all of you. You know, things do get busy around here, but if people like you don't come to see us sometimes, we forget why I'm here. It's easy to get too busy and lose connections with the people in the country. You know, tonight all over this country people will see a picture of you here. And you have no idea whether some young person will see your picture here and be inspired and say, "Well, I can do more with my life. I can make more of myself. There is something else I can do." And I don't think you could possibly underestimate the impact that your achievement will have on others. I really want to encourage you. I also want you to know I don't have the upper-body strength to play basketball. Now, don't run off with that. *[Laughter]*

Tax Bill

Q. Mr. President, are you satisfied with the way your tax bill came out of the House Ways and Means Committee?

The President. Chairman Rostenkowski called me about an hour or so ago, right after the vote, and based on what I know, I'm very satisfied. I'm immensely pleased. All the basic features of the bill remained intact, and many of the changes that were made I think

made it a better bill. So again, I have not had a chance to study all the things that were done today, but based on what I know, I believe it is a very good bill indeed. It still maintains the essential features. The earned income tax credit is there for people making roughly \$29,000 a year or less to basically add fairness to the Tax Code and relieve them of the impact of the energy tax.

The bill is highly progressive, virtually all of the money raised on people with incomes of over \$100,000. The immunization program, the family preservation program is intact. The empowerment zone program was endorsed by the committee, and they added quite a bit of money to it so we could encourage more cities to get involved in trying to bring free enterprise into distressed areas. I think that is a very impressive thing. And I think changing the small business incentive to an expensing rather than an investment tax credit is basically a net plus because more small businesses can access it at less hassle. So I feel very good about it—what I know about the bill. You know, like I said, I haven't—but what I know about it is very encouraging.

Q. Why shouldn't the American people regard this as a black letter day with a new tax bill coming their way?

The President. Because all this money is going to go to reduce the deficit. Because we've got interest rates at a 20-year low. Because most Americans have refinanced a home or a business loan, they've already saved more money in interest costs than they will pay in higher taxes. And because if we don't do something to cut spending and increase some taxes we're going to bankrupt the country.

We tried it the other way for 12 years. We tried lowering taxes and increasing spending, and we went from a \$1 trillion to a \$4 trillion debt; didn't work out very well. And I think the American people want us finally to step up to the bar and reduce this national deficit and get it down eventually to zero and get some economic growth going.

I also believe until we bring the deficit down we won't have any money to invest in education and training and new technologies. We have to prove to the American people first we've got the discipline to spend their

money properly and to run this Government properly.

I think it's not a black letter day. It's a red letter day for America. We're finally beginning to face our problems in a mature way. And I'm encouraged. And I applaud the House Committee for what they did today.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:42 p.m. in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony

May 13, 1993

Thank you very much. Senator DeConcini, Chairman Floyd, President Young, law enforcement officers, and survivors of our fallen brothers and sister.

America has more than half a million law enforcement officers who serve proudly and bravely. And every day they carry out their sworn duties, risk is a constant companion. No one knows that better than those of you who are here tonight and your families. But I can say that there are very few Americans who owe more to law enforcement officers than do I. I'm proud to be joined here tonight by three people who have a very important role in the protection of the American people and who have an important role in my administration and my life. I'd like to acknowledge them if I might: the Director of the United States Secret Service, whose members put their lives on the line for the President every day, Mr. John McGaw; the Director of the Office of National Drug Policy and formerly the police chief of the cities of Atlanta, Houston, and New York, Mr. Lee Brown; and Senator DeConcini just mentioned the Attorney General, formerly the prosecutor of Dade County, Florida, Ms. Janet Reno, who just came in. She's somewhere here. I like introducing these people.

I'd also like to thank very much the survivors from Arkansas who came here with me tonight, as well as the law enforcement officials, in particular, the two members of the Arkansas State Police, who for a dozen years worked with me and protected me and my

family and stood up to unbelievable pressures from radical fringe groups, from organized rioters, from serious organized criminal efforts, and the day-to-day hazards of law enforcement. I owe them all a great deal, and I'm glad they're here tonight.

More than 13,000 law enforcement officials have fallen in the line of duty. This memorial was dedicated to them a year and a half ago. Tonight we note the names of 328 more who will be newly etched on these marble stones. But our tribute will ring hollow tonight unless we recommit ourselves to do whatever we can to keep the remainder of these stones as smooth as possible, to support the men and women who keep our society more lawful and our lives more secure, to help them as enforcers, and to keep them from becoming victims.

Collectively, we call them our Thin Blue Line. That line is nothing less than our buffer against chaos, against the worst impulses of this society, a shield we may not always think about until it is raised in our own defense. The safety of our citizens in their homes, where they work, where they play, it all depends on that Thin Blue Line. And so it behooves us all to reinforce that line, to make it as strong as we can.

Let us be honest with one another. We know that nothing we do will remove all risk from law enforcement, but we can take steps that will make the profession safer and make ourselves safer as well. We could do that by passing the Brady bill. The American people want it; law enforcement officers have called for it for years. It will save lives, and it would be a tribute to those we honor here tonight.

We can also do that by increasing the number of law enforcement officers on the street. Just a generation ago there were three officers for every serious crime in this country. Today there are three crimes for every officer. It makes police work more dangerous. It makes it more difficult to implement strategies that work like community policing. It makes society less safe. Let us do more to put police officers on the street, and that will be a tribute to those whom we come here to honor tonight.